

**FLEAS FROM SOME ALASKAN BIRDS
(SIPHONAPTERA)**

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Records of fleas collected from birds are much fewer than records from mammals. Not as many birds are examined for fleas, birds are seldom infested, and in Alaska species of mammal fleas outnumber species of bird fleas 2 to 1. By thoroughly examining dead birds found by chance since 1973, we obtained four fleas. Three of these were true bird fleas, one being a new record for the United States. The fourth was a mammal flea not previously recorded from birds. The specimens are deposited in the collection of the senior author. We thank F. G. A. M. Smit, London, for his comments on *Ceratophyllus adustus* and Dr. G. P. Holland, Ottawa, for his comments on *C. diffinis*.

Ceratophyllus adustus Jordan

Record.—Palmer, 8.8 km SE: 1 female, *Picoides tridactylus*, 27.X.75, G. E. Haas.

No records of this species have been published since Jordan (1932) described it from a single female collected from a porcupine in the Atlin region of British Columbia. He noted the reduced chaetotaxy and concluded that it presumably resulted from a bird flea changing hosts, the porcupine probably becoming the true host. Our studies in Alaska indicate, however, that *C. adustus* is a woodpecker nest flea. The infested porcupine probably climbed a tree in which a woodpecker had nested and approached the nest close enough for the flea to make contact.

Ceratophyllus diffinis Jordan

Record.—Palmer, 4 km E: 1 female, *Ixoreus naevius*, 2.V.76, I. Sims.

This Nearctic flea is transcontinental on a wide variety of birds, especially Galliformes and Passeriformes (Holland, 1963; Benton & Shatrau, 1965). Holland (in litt. 1975) has specimens from *I. naevius* in Alaska.

Ceratophyllus gallinae (Schränk)

Record.—Talkeetna, 19.2 km S: 1 male, *Dendroica coronata*, 1.VI.76, G. E. Haas.

This widespread Old World flea is a natural passerine parasite that became a domestic fowl pest in Europe and supposedly was introduced into North America (Holland, 1963). Holland (1949) recorded it ranging from New Brunswick to Saskatchewan and later (Holland, 1963) from western Alaska, one of several localities in which Smit (1969) considered it an introduction.

Tarsopsylla octodecimdentata coloradensis (Baker)

Record.—Matanuska Glacier, 1 km N: 1 female, *Perisoreus canadensis*, 27.IX.78, T. Rumfelt.

This is a tree squirrel nest flea (Holland, 1963). The jay might have become infested while feeding on a roadkill red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) or while visiting a tree hole frequented by this mammal. This is the first record of *T. o. coloradensis* parasitizing a bird.

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